

~~SENSITIVE~~

CIA/SAVA / LUVIND 701114



WEEKLY VIETNAM INDICATORS

Week Ending 14 November 1970

NSA Declassification/Release Instructions on File.

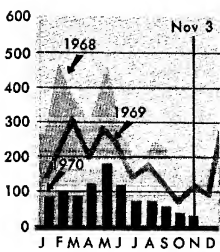
For the President Only

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SOUTH VIETNAM WEEKLY INDICATORS

1968-1970

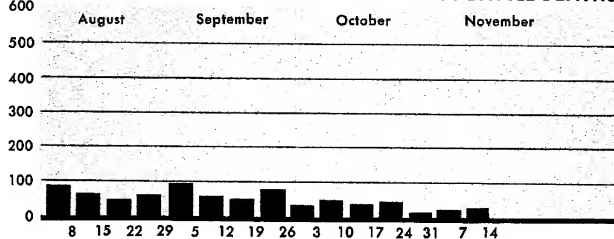
Weekly average for each month



AUGUST-NOVEMBER 1970

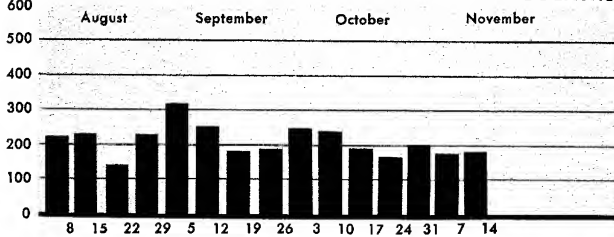
Weekly data as reported

US BATTLE DEATHS



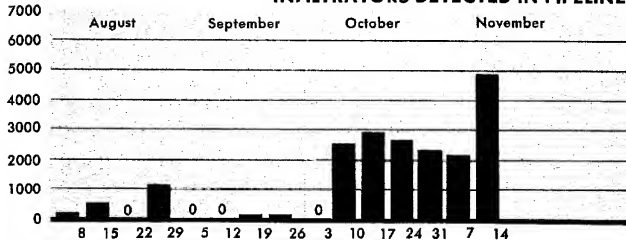
increased to 37 from last week's 31.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE BATTLE DEATHS



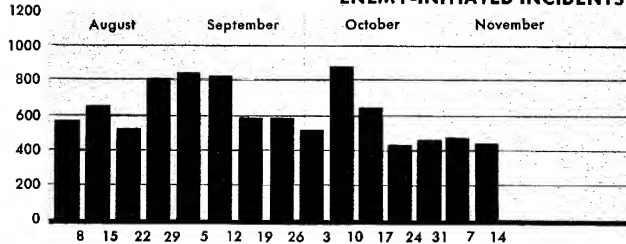
rose slightly to 183 from the 180 of last week. The official total will change as late reports are received and will be lower than the figures released to the press by the GVN.

INFILTRATORS DETECTED IN PIPELINE



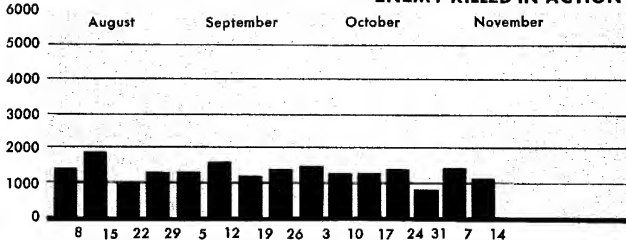
stand at seven detected and two "gap fill" groups with a combined strength of nearly 5,000. The estimated number of infiltrators since 1 October 1970 now totals 17,500 - 19,000.

ENEMY-INITIATED INCIDENTS



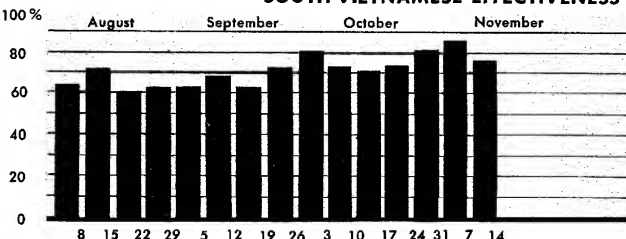
dropped to 434 from last week's 499.

ENEMY KILLED IN ACTION



decreased to 1,135 from last week's 1,584.

SOUTH VIETNAMESE EFFECTIVENESS



as measured by the percentage of enemy killed by GVN forces dropped to 77% from last week's high figure of 87%.

Statistics for the latest week shown are preliminary

FOR THE PRESIDENT ONLY

Enemy Activity

Enemy-initiated action remained low in South Vietnam, but sporadic ground contact was made by Allied forces near Hoi An and in the Que Son Valley in Military Region (MR) 1, near Tuy Hoa on the central coastal plain in MR 2, and in the Seven Mountains area in MR 4.

In north Laos, enemy resistance to friendly guerrilla advances west of the Plain of Jars has stiffened and the Communists are apparently endeavoring to complete preparations for offensive action. In the central Panhandle, tanks may have been introduced by the enemy into the Muong Phine area. In south Laos, light engagements continue on the edge of the Bolovens Plateau.

In Cambodia, the lull of the past two months ended when the Communists launched a series of brief coordinated attacks on important government positions in Kompong Cham Province. The initiative was not left entirely to the Communists, however, as Cambodian and South Vietnamese forces swept between Routes 2 and 3 south of Phnom Penh, and another Cambodian riverine force moved northward toward Kompong Thom.

Enemy Infiltration

Infiltration toward South Vietnam continues at the highest rate ever for this time of year. The total to date for this month (some 7,700) is now about equal to the total for all of November 1969. In the past week, seven positively detected and two "gap fill" groups, containing nearly 5,000 personnel, were added to the infiltration estimate, bringing the total since 1 October 1970 to some 17,500 - 19,000.

25X1X6

South Vietnam Developments

25X1X6

[REDACTED] following a cease fire and arrangements for foreign troop withdrawals, the GVN could announce readiness to revise the present constitution. The Communists could then be invited to participate in elections for a constitutional assembly which would draft a new constitution and devise rules for the election of a new government. Under such a scenario, the GVN would become a "caretaker" government and delegate most key powers to an electoral commission during the interim period of preparing new elections.

25X1X6

25X1X6

President Thieu continues to display caution in committing the GVN forces to operations in Cambodia. An ambitious reconnaissance-in-force operation planned by General Tri to assist the Cambodians in the Kompong Cham area was vetoed by Thieu on grounds that it would place an unnecessary strain on the GVN logistics system and its tactical air capabilities. [REDACTED] Thieu will permit operations beyond a 20-kilometer depth only if a large city is endangered or if at least a battalion size concentration of enemy forces is located.

25X1C

The government may try to mobilize public opinion in an effort to keep Lower House Deputy Tran Ngoc Chau in prison despite the danger this might regenerate international criticism. On 14 November, President Thieu formally requested the Lower House to lift Chau's parliamentary immunity. Meanwhile, an aide is attempting to line up support among assembly officials for a joint communique which would protest the recent Supreme Court decision declaring Chau's imprisonment illegal. This would be followed up by similar protests from pro-government deputies and local councils which would be given favorable play by TV and radio. According to the aide, if successful, this plan will spare Thieu the embarrassment of releasing a "pro-Communist" who was one of his most vocal critics.

We have been receiving increasing indications of growing morale problems and performance shortfalls within the ranks of the Communist's political organization. One such indication is the October 1970 record of the Provincial Reconnaissance Units in their actions directed against the Party infrastructure. During this month -- their best this year -- the Provincial Reconnaissance Units accounted for 608 Viet Cong of whom 462 were captured and 146 were killed. These operations, based on continually improved intelligence, were also the most successful of the year in selective targetting. Thus, of the 608 total figure, 72 percent were members of the Communist Party, the National Liberation Front, or the Provisional Revolutionary Government.

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